

45. (Fourth Amendment) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a recombinant expression vector including a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 17, and a sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO: 17; said nucleotide sequence being operably joined to a regulatory region, wherein said expression vector encodes at least a functional domain of an hcAMP-GEFII protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18, wherein said functional domain of the hcAMP-GEFII protein exhibits guanine nucleotide exchange factor activity in an *in vitro* assay.

Basis for Amendments

Attached is a marked-up copy of the amended claim, as well as a clean copy of the complete set of pending claims as amended.

Remarks

Claims 40-47, 50-54 and 62 were considered in the Office Action of December 2, 2002. Claims 40-44, 46, 47, 50-54 and 62 were allowed, while claim 45 was objected to for being an improper dependent claim.

As suggested by the Examiner, claim 45 has been amended to place it into independent form by including all of the limitations of the base claims from which it previously depended. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been obviated and request that it be withdrawn.